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RL:0301

Proposal 743
RELATING TO PRESERVATION OF NATIVE ECOTYPES

Statement for
Con Con Committee on Environment, Agriculture,
Conservation and Land
Public Hearing 9 August 1978

by
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Proposal 743 would amend Article X of the Constitution to provide the State ensure preservation of no fewer than two examples of each nature ecotype. This statement on the proposal does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The intent of Proposal 743 to promote the preservation of nature species of flora and fauna is worthy. It represents, however, a level of detail that is best placed in legislation rather than in the Constitution, and indeed detail that is in some respects inappropriate anywhere.

The State cannot by any means ensure that every remaining endemic species can be saved, except perhaps as preserved specimens in a museum. Introduction of diseases, for example, can be guarded against, but not totally prevented.

The level of effort in preservation that would be required in the proposal, including condemnation of land in some cases, may well be appropriate in the case of some endangered species, but would in all probability be considered inappropriate by the majority of the people in many cases.